

INTERVIEW SUMMARY

An interview was held between Examiner Strzelecka, Travis Wohlers, and Michael Samardzija on July 17, 2006. The enablement rejection of claims 1, 2, and 5-14 was discussed. As noted in the Examiner's Interview Summary, Examiner Strzelecka indicated that the present specification was enabling for a method of diagnosing colorectal cancer in a subject by assessing AC133 expression in peripheral blood mononuclear cells.

The fact that the number of EPCs in the peripheral blood could be increased in response to tumor angiogenesis or vascular trauma was discussed. The Examiner's Interview Summary states that "vascular trauma causes an increase in the level of AC133 expression in endothelial precursor cells (EPCs)." Applicants would like to clarify that vascular trauma can result in an increase in the number of EPCs in a peripheral blood sample and, because AC133 expression is highly specific to EPCs, result in an increase in the amount of AC133 detected in the peripheral blood sample. Applicants' representative noted that while the number of EPCs in a sample may be increased by vascular trauma, such events (e.g., burns, mechanical disruption) are generally readily apparent to the medical practitioner and will be taken into consideration as disclosed in the specification.